

Amendments to the Claims

1-19. (Cancelled)

20. (New) A method for inhibiting smooth muscle contraction in a digestive tract by administering an L-menthol-containing formulation which comprises L-menthol, a surfactant and an antifoaming agent and which is an emulsion with an average particle size of less than 100 nm to a human digestive tract.

21. (New) The method for inhibiting smooth muscle contraction according to Claim 20, wherein the L-menthol-containing formulation further comprises a fat or oil.

22. (New) The method for inhibiting smooth muscle contraction according to Claim 20, wherein the L-menthol-containing formulation has a light transmittance of 50% or more.

23. (New) The method for inhibiting smooth muscle contraction according to Claim 20, wherein the L-menthol-containing formulation comprises 0.01 to 5.0% by weight of L-menthol, 0.1 to 10% by weight of surfactant and 0.0001 to 0.01% by weight of an antifoaming agent based on the weight of the whole formulation.

24. (New) The method for inhibiting smooth muscle contraction according to Claim 23, wherein the L-menthol-containing formulation further comprises 0.1 to 10% by weight of fat or oil.

25. (New) The method for inhibiting smooth muscle contraction according to Claim 20, wherein the antifoaming agent is a silicone antifoaming agent.

- 26. (New)** The method for inhibiting smooth muscle contraction according to Claim 20, wherein the surfactant is at least one member selected from polyoxyethylene hydrogenated castor oils and sucrose fatty acid esters.
- 27. (New)** The method for inhibiting smooth muscle contraction according to Claim 21, wherein the L-menthol-containing formulation has a light transmittance of 50% or more.
- 28. (New)** The method for inhibiting smooth muscle contraction according to Claim 21, wherein the L-menthol-containing formulation comprises 0.01 to 5.0% by weight of L-menthol, 0.1 to 10% by weight of surfactant, and 0.0001 to 0.01% by weight of an antifoaming weight based on the weight of the whole formulation.
- 29. (New)** The method for inhibiting smooth muscle contraction according to Claim 22, wherein the L-menthol-containing formulation comprises 0.01 to 5.0% by weight of L-menthol, 0.1 to 10% by weight of a surfactant, and 0.0001 to 0.01% by weight of an antifoaming agent based on the weight of the whole formulation.
- 30. (New)** The method for inhibiting smooth muscle contraction according to Claim 21, wherein the antifoaming agent is a silicone antifoaming agent.
- 31. (New)** The method for inhibiting smooth muscle contraction according to Claim 22, wherein the antifoaming agent is a silicone antifoaming agent.
- 32. (New)** The method for inhibiting smooth muscle contraction according to Claim 23, wherein the antifoaming agent is a silicone antifoaming agent.

- 33. (New)** The method for inhibiting smooth muscle contraction according to Claim 24, wherein the antifoaming agent is a silicone antifoaming agent.
- 34. (New)** The method for inhibiting smooth muscle contraction according to Claim 21, wherein the surfactant is at least one member selected from polyoxyethylene hydrogenated castor oils and sucrose fatty acid esters.
- 35. (New)** The method for inhibiting smooth muscle contraction according to Claim 22, wherein the surfactant is at least one member selected from polyoxyethylene hydrogenated castor oils and sucrose fatty acid esters.
- 36. (New)** The method for inhibiting smooth muscle contraction according to Claim 23, wherein the surfactant is at least one member selected from polyoxyethylene hydrogenated castor oils and sucrose fatty acid esters.
- 37. (New)** The method for inhibiting smooth muscle contraction according to Claim 24, wherein the surfactant is at least one member selected from polyoxyethylene hydrogenated castor oils and sucrose fatty acid esters.
- 38. (New)** The method for inhibiting smooth muscle contraction according to Claim 25, wherein the surfactant is at least one member selected from polyoxyethylene hydrogenated castor oils and sucrose fatty acid esters.